

CONFIDENTIAL

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WHITE HOUSE SUPPORT STAFF

CIA/OCI/WH/IZWH 740704

Date: July 4, 1974  
Item No.: WH 1

FLD  
G 3#  
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State Department review completed

DIRECTOR: WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: Jordanian King Visits Refugee Camps

King Husayn, accompanied by Prime Minister Rifai and Chief of Staff Bin yesterday Shaker, visited two camps on the West Bank—Baqa and Schneller—which are populated by Palestinian refugees of the June 1967 war. In impromptu speeches, the King stated that Jordan will never cede any Arab rights and is resolved to liberate the occupied territory.

The US Embassy in Amman cautions against drawing undue conclusions from the enthusiastic reception of the King since the refugees are easily stirred by any public event. Many refugees do, however, attribute their suffering during the 1970-71 clash with the fedayeen to the policies of Arafat and the PLO rather than

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Approved For Release 2005/06/13 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100140010-2  
to those of Husayn.

Overall, the King's visit—his first to these camps since 1971—is an indication of his increased confidence born of a sense of wider acceptance in the Arab world (Syria, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia) and of his desire to put the PLO on the defensive if he can.